



ATTACHMENT A

Remarks

Before considering the Office Action in any detail, it is noted that a number of the claims have been amended to improve the form thereof. These amendments are made to correct errors (e.g., in claim 25 wherein the dependency has been corrected) or to clarify previous recitations (e.g., claim 16 wherein additional structural basis is provided for the essentially functional recitations therein and claim 25 wherein the recitations in this claim are more clearly tied to the recitations in the parent claim), and do not impact on the basic patentability of the claims.

Turning to the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11-13, 15-17, 19-21, 23, 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being "anticipated by" the Liu patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Liu patent discloses a multifunctional frame assembly with a fan and speaker for use in a personal computer. The patent basically concerns providing a mounting arrangement which overcomes "the drawbacks of conventional installations of ventilating fan and speaker, such as the inconvenience resulting from uneasy dismantlement and assembly of the components of the personal computer" (column 1, lines 28 to 33). As stated in the patent in the first paragraph of column 3 "the inner side of each flange 101 of the fan-engaged portion 14 is provided with a ledge 102 so that the ledges 102 can snappily engage with the edge of the ventilating fan 24 (as shown in Figure. 4), after the ventilating fan is installed in the fan-engaged portion 14 so as to prevent the ventilating fan 24 from dropping outwardly and to facilitate assembly of the frame 10 on an end plate 201 of the basis of the computer."

It is important to note that, as stated at column 3, lines 25 to 28, the "front and rear surfaces of the ventilating fan 24 are in contact with the inner wall of the end plate 201 and the surface of the fan-engaged portion 14 respectively" as is shown in Figure 3. As is also shown in Figure 3, the speaker 22 is mounted flush

with the end plate 201 as well. Further, the fan 24 is of a design wherein the fan elements are mounted in a cylindrical element disposed between two plates as shown in Figure 2. Further, the end plate 201 includes separate, unnumbered openings separately dedicated to the fan 24 and to the speaker 22, respectively.

It is respectfully submitted that the construction of the Liu patent is such that it is not possible for heat generated by the system to escape through the openings dedicated to the speaker 22. In this regard, the design of fan 24 as disclosed above, and the provision of separate openings for the fan, and thus for the airflow exhaust path, prevent heat generated by the system from escaping through any openings other than the openings adjacent to the fan. In addition, as indicated above, the fan is in contact with the inner wall of end plate 201 thereby preventing even the unintended passage of heat to the openings for the speaker 22.

Turning to the claims, and in particular to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that for the reasons set forth above, the Liu patent does not disclose openings in the chassis of a portable computer from which sound from an intended speaker can emanate and which also allow heat generated by the system to escape.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that the internal speaker is not "located at least a minimum distance away from the openings" as claimed in claim 2 because, in the Liu patent, the speaker is flush with these openings. Similar remarks apply to claim 3.

Regarding dependent claims 7, 8 and 9, it is not seen that the Liu patent specifically discloses air intake vents as claimed. Of course, claims 7, 8 and 9 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 1.

Turning to claim 11, this claim clearly defines over the Liu patent for similar reasons to those set forth above. There is no disclosure in the Liu patent of a first opening in a chassis spaced apart from an internal speaker wherein, in

addition to facilitating emanation of sound outside of the computer chassis, the first opening further facilitates the flow of air between the internal speaker and the first opening. Further, there is no disclosure of a second opening for facilitating airflow between the second opening along a path past heat generated by a heat generating device within the chassis to the first opening so as to remove heat from within the computer chassis.

Regarding independent claim 15, there is no disclosure in the Liu patent of a notebook computer having a chassis containing at least one surface-mounted speaker grill located at least a minimum distance away from an internal speaker.

Similarly, with respect to independent claim 19, there is no disclosure in the Liu patent of ventilating a portable computer wherein a speaker grill is provided on a surface of the portable computer within an airflow exhaust path and heated air in the airflow exhaust path is vented out through the speaker grill.

Claims 3-6, 10-14, 18, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being “unpatentable over” the Liu patent in view of the Homer et al patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Homer et al patent is relied on for the teaching therein of a pair of speakers 44 which are “positioned to output sound through openings 46 formed in an upper wall 22.” It is respectfully submitted that even assuming for the sake of argument that it would be obvious to combine the teachings of these two references, and that it would be feasible to do so, the Homer et al patent clearly does not make up the basic deficiencies of the Liu patent as a reference against the independent claims. Moreover, the speakers of the Homer et al patent are not located on a front side surface as claimed in some of the claims, and are flush with the openings (as shown in Figure 5) contrary to what is claimed in some of the other claims. In this regard, a number of the dependent claims are separately patentable for the reasons set forth above or for other reasons, in addition to being patentable for the reasons set forth in support of the patentability of the claims parent thereto.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that for the reasons discussed above, the primary reference, the Liu patent, simply does not disclose the fundamental features of the present invention claimed in the claims presented and, instead, discloses an arrangement wherein the venting of exhaust heat through a surface-mounted speaker grill is specifically prevented. Accordingly, allowance of the application in its present form is respectfully solicited.

END REMARKS